



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Sara L. Hensley

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 03-25-04

Approved

Kay Winer

Date

3/26/04

Council District: N/A

SNI: N/A

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT A
GRANT APPLICATION TO SUPPORT EARLY CARE AND
EDUCATION**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to:

- a. Submit a grant application to the United States Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Education and;
- b. Negotiate and execute a grant agreement not to exceed \$397,640 beginning June 1, 2004 and ending on June 1, 2006.

BACKGROUND

Senator Barbara Boxer notified the Mayor and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services Office on Early Care and Education Services of a funding opportunity through the *United States Department of Education — Fund for the Improvement of Education*. At Congresswoman Boxer's request, a list of desired funding items and prospective projects was forwarded to her office. These prospective projects would support the implementation of the Early Education Initiative and the Early Care and Education Strategic Work Plan.

ANALYSIS

Earlier this year, the Mayor's Office received notice that funding was approved to support the City's Early Education Initiative and the implementation of the Early Care and Education Strategic Work Plan and that a completed grant application/proposal was required to officially request funding.

The funds will support the implementation of Strategic Goal Area II, in the Early Care and Education Strategic Work Plan: *facilitate education and professional development on how to start operate and/or work in high quality early care and education programs*. The very successful Smart Start San José School Readiness component (Ready for Kindergarten) has not been funded since the completion of the very successful Ready for Kindergarten Pilot in FY 2001 – 2002. With this new grant, direct services will be provided to preschool children, their families, and early educators. In addition, this funding would provide for the alignment of school readiness programming between Library Services —Books For Little Hands and the Smart Start San José program.

The needs that will be addressed by this project are:

- Children not entering school with the foundations needed for academic and social success
- Building the capacity of families to support their children's success in school.
- Early educators, providers and librarians who are not adequately educated and trained to prepare children for school and social success.

The target populations for this project are:

- Smart Start San José early care and education (child care) programs that are located in areas that have been identified as underserved for early care and education and where children are under performing in school.
- Early care and education programs (ECEP) that rate a 4 or below on the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Score (ECERS) or Family Day Care Rating Scale (FDCRS).
- Early educators who work in target programs.
- Families (parents) that have a reading score below the ninth grade level and have children enrolled in target early care and education programs.
- Children enrolled in target early care and education programs

The grant application is due by March 31, 2004. Funding will be made available in May 2004. If funded, the objectives that will be met over the next two years (FY2004 – 2005 and 2005 – 2006) are:

- 80% of children entering Kindergarten from Smart Start San José programs, will enter with the foundation needed for academic and social success
- 20 Early Educators will receive training on using the Smart Start San José School Readiness Criteria and Assessment Tool
- Books for Little Hands will be expanded
- Launch Arts for Little Hands



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- Parent Tip Sheets will be developed and distributed to families and early educators
- 4 Regional Summits featuring Arts for Little Hands and Books for Little Hands

PUBLIC OUTREACH

N/A

COORDINATION


This memorandum was coordinated with the City Attorney's Office.

CEQA

Not a project.

COST IMPLICATIONS

There are no matching requirements for this grant and therefore no additional costs to the City. All expenses incurred will be offset by grant revenues.


for SARA L. HENSLEY
Director of Parks, Recreation
and Neighborhood Services